

USER IMPERSONATION BY A PROXY SERVER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A user is connected to the Internet by a proxy server that impersonates the user. Websites are accessed by sending an HTTP request to the proxy server. The HTTP request is encoded with characters that are understood by the proxy as requiring that the HTTP request be intercepted and either an identified script be executed or data within the request be extracted. The impersonating proxy automatically carries out the steps that would otherwise be carried out by the user when performing a transaction at a website. In one example, a user checks a bank website for a balance inquiry. A first HTTP request includes a script identifier. The proxy retrieves and executes the identified script, which in turn causes an HTTP response to be sent to the user's browser for personal information (e.g., user name and password). That personal information is extracted from a second HTTP request returned to the proxy, and the proxy accesses the bank website, enters the personal information, retrieves the account balance, and provides it to the user.

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